

REMARKS

Claims 19-25 have been canceled. Claims 1-18 and 26-27 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-5, 9-18 and 26-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,278,712 to Takihiro et al., in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,708,209 to Ebata et al.; and claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takihiro et al., in view of Ebata et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,336,129 to Ise et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

The Examiner cited Takihiro et al. as a new principal reference that allegedly discloses the main features of the claimed invention, and relied upon Ebata et al. as a combining reference that allegedly suggests the remaining claimed IP address searching, user policy transmitting, and charging data features, which features the Examiner conceded were absent from the disclosure of Takihiro et al. Page 4, line 13 et seq. of the Office Action.

In particular, the Examiner cited Figs. 26 and 29 of Takihiro et al. as allegedly illustrating “sales department’s video server 520 requesting a resource management server 200 to reserve [a] transmission band.” Page 3, lines 15-18 of the Office Action.

According to col. 24, lines 20-36 of Takihiro et al., however, a user of the user equipment A or B (210-A or 210-B) shown in Fig. 26 requests the resource management server 200 to reserve a resource necessary for communications by inputting, among other parameters, the communication destination information 520. Thus, contrary to the Examiner’s contentions, Takihiro et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner—and, correspondingly, the proposed combination of Takihiro et al. and Ebata et al.—at least fail to disclose or suggest the claimed feature of a content server requesting an intermediary server to reserve a transmission band.

In other words, Takihiro et al. and Ebata et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner,

do not disclose or suggest,

“[a] method of reserving a transmission band of a transmission line for transmitting data via a plurality of Internet service providers on the Internet between a content server and a terminal, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) the content server requesting an intermediary server to reserve the transmission band by transmitting a user policy that includes an ordering number, a requested band, a reservation start date and time, and a reservation end date and time; and

(b) the intermediary server reserving the transmission band for the content server and the terminal,

wherein the reserving step further includes the steps of:

receiving the user policy;

storing the received user policy;

searching for IP addresses of policy servers of the plurality of Internet service providers;

transmitting the user policy to each policy server corresponding to each of the plurality of Internet service providers, said each policy server storing the transmitted user policy;

receiving a band reservation result from each corresponding policy server;

determining whether the requested band reservation is confirmed by the band reservation results; and

transmitting the band reservation results to the content server, and

wherein charging data, for charging one or more of a transmitter and a receiver of said data for transmission quality assurance per said plurality of Internet service providers, is constructed at one or more of said content server, said intermediary server, and said policy server,” as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1, together with claims 2-5 and 9-18 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Takihiro et al. and Ebata et al., separately and in combination, for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 26-27 incorporate features that correspond to those of claim 1 cited above, and are, therefore, patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons. The Examiner relied upon Ise et al. to specifically

address the additional features recited in claims 6-8. As such, a further combination with Ise et al. would still have failed to cure the above-described deficiencies of Takihiro et al. and Ebata et al., even assuming, arguendo, that such a further combination would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 6-8, which depend from claim 1, are patentable over the cited references for at least the above-stated reasons.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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